

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9569
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 04247

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: CSU SEC GEN TANDLER COMMENTS ON DOMESTIC SCENE

1. INTRO AND SUMMARY. CSU SECRETARY GENERAL GEROLD TANDLER MADE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ON FRG DOMESTIC POLITICS DURING DECEMBER 13 LUNCHEON IN MUNICH WITH POL COUNSELOR SMYSER AND CONGEN POLOFF GILMORE. TANDLER IS INTER ALIA PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE PRESENT STATE OF THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION AND CONVINCED THAT THE CDU AND CSU SHOULD PURSUE A STRATEGY OF CONFRONTATION WITH THE FDP. END SUMMARY.

2. JOINT STRATEGY COMMISSION. TANDLER STATED FLATLY THAT HE DID NOT REPEAT NOT EXPECT THE DECEMBER 14 MEETING OF THE CDU/CSU JOINT STRATEGY COMMISSION TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING CONCRETE. FROM SUBSTANTIVE POINT OF VIEW, THE MEETING IS NOT REPEAT NOT WORTH THE COST OF AN AIR TICKET TO BONN. IMPORTANCE OF MEETING FROM CSU STANDPOINT IS CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT IT WILL HELP ESTABLISH REGULAR RHYTHM FOR COMMISSION MEETINGS. TANDLER EXPRESSED HOPE THAT COMMISSION MEETINGS WOULD TAKE PLACE VERY SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS.

3. STATE OF THE OPPOSITION. TANDLER DESCRIBED THE STATE OF THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION AS (EXPLETIVE DELETED). HE CONSIDERS THE OPPOSITION INEFFECTIVE AT PRESENT AND

SEES NO CURRENT ISSUE(S) WHICH COULD PROPEL IT INTO POWER.

4. UNION STRATEGY AND THE FDP. TANDLER BELIEVES THAT UNION PARTIES CAN WIN AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN NEXT BUNDESTAG ELECTION IF THEY ARE ABLE TO FORMULATE A STRATEGY DESIGNED TO WIN VOTES ON THE MARGINS OF THEIR PRESENT CONSTITUENCY. HE IS ALSO CONVINCED THAT CDU AND CSU MUST ADOPT STRATEGY OF CONFRONTATION WITH FDP. KOHL'S STRATEGY OF WOOLING FDP PLAYS INTO GENSCHER'S HAND AND INCREASES GENSCHER'S POLITICAL POWER. UNION PARTIES MUST INSTEAD CHALLENGE GENSCHER WITH AIM OF CONVINCING HIM THAT HIS PARTY'S VERY EXISTENCE IS THREATENED BY CONTINUED ADHERENCE TO PRESENT COALITION. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT TWO THIRDS OF NEW FDP VOTERS COME FROM LEFT SIDE OF FRG POLITICAL SPECTRUM, ONE CANNOT REPEAT NOT EXPECT GENSCHER AND FDP TO CHANGE PARTNERS UNLESS POLITICAL REALITY FORCES THEM TO DO SO.

5. THE KREUTH DECISION. TANDLER SAID HE HAD NOT REPEAT NOT ANTICIPATED THAT A MAJORITY OF CSU BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES WOULD FAVOR THE NOVEMBER 19, 1976, DECISION TO CREATE A SEPARATE CSU BUNDESTAG "FRAKTION." HE ALSO GAVE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT CSU LEADERSHIP (E.G. STRAUSS) HAD NOT REPEAT NOT WANTED THE DECISION TO GO THAT WAY. ALTHOUGH HE CONTINUES TO FEEL THAT KOHL MADE A MISTAKE BY NOT REPEAT NOT ACCEPTING KREUTH DECISION (ON CONFIDENTIAL

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GROUND THAT KOHL WOULD NOT HAVE HAD TO FACE CSU OPPOSITION TO RESISTANCE TO HIS LEADERSHIP IF HE HAD ACCEPTED KREUTH), TANDLER AGREED THAT KOHL COULD HARDLY HAVE ACTED OTHER THAN HE DID. TANDLER ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO REPEAT KREUTH. BETTS

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